The Southern PATRIOT

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Bombs, Bankers Are Threat to 'Dream Home'

In the June issue of the Patriot we reported the battle of a young Negro couple in Louisville, Ky., to win the right to live in their "dream home." Their difficulty: their $11,300 house is located in a subdivision designated as "white."

Our last report told of the cross-burning, the rifle shots and the printed abuse Andrew Wade IV and his family endured.

Since then, developments have become even more grave. On June 27 a blast of dynamite was set off under the Wade home, causing nearly $7,000 worth of damage. By purest chance the Wades were at the opposite side of the house and no one was injured.

The South End Building & Loan company has filed suit for foreclosure on the property, claiming that transfer of the deed without the company's permission violated the terms of the mortgage.

There is no question that powerful real-estate interests in Louisville are determined that the Wades be ousted by any means—legal or otherwise. The rather studied incompetency of Jefferson County police seems a sure barometer of the mighty pressure that has been brought to bear. Only one arrest has resulted out of the whole sequence of disorder and violence: Wade himself and a friend were booked after a policeman refused to let the latter enter the Wade home.

The importance of this case to the cause of racial equality in the South should not be missed by any one. The Supreme Court has gone as far as it can, by outlawing racial covenants in housing. The myth that mixed neighborhoods mean lowered real estate values has been exploded by careful, authoritative studies. But if short-sighted realtors are allowed to perpetuate Negro ghettoes in our cities, any effective meaning will be gutted from the ending of segregation in schools and elsewhere.

What is needed now is $8,000 to pay off the amount due on the Wade mortgage. At presstime, the people of Louisville have raised almost $4,000 of it. There is a possibility that the court may order foreclosure on a $2,000 second

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SCEF BOARD MEETING—The board of directors of the SCEF met in Atlanta in June to lay plans for gaining compliance with the Supreme Court ruling outlawing segregation. A copy of the policy statement drafted by this outstanding group of Southerners may be had upon request. Shown in the above picture are:

Seated (l. to r.): Dr. Lincoln Barker, professor, Maryville College, Tenn.; O. B. Taylor, M.D., Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. Jesse P. Guzman, Tuskegee Institute; Mrs. Lincoln Barker; Dr. James A. Dombrowski; Aubrey Williams, president SCEF; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, President-Emeritus, Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Mrs. Lulu White, Director of Branches, Texas Conference NAACP, Houston, Tex.; Bishop Sherman L. Greene, President, Council of Bishops, AME Church, Atlanta, Ga.; Dean James L. Hupp, West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Standing (l. to r.): Dean Charles G. Gomillion, Tuskegee; Franklin W. Thomas, executive secretary, YMCA, Tulsa, Okla.; Dr. William A. Calder, Agnes Scott College, Ga.; Rudolph Moses, Secretary-Treasurer, Keystone Life Ins. Co., Treasurer, SCEF, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. Alfred Maund; Atty. John M. Coe, Pensacola, Fla.; W. E. Hogan, Assoc. Sec'y., S.W. Area Council YMCA, Dallas, Tex.; Dean Olds; John Wesley Dobbs, Grand Master, Prince Hall Masons of Ga.; Dr. Howard L. Parsons, University of Tennessee; Alfred Maund, Alabama. Dr. Albert E. Barnett, Candler School of Religion, Emory University, attended the board meeting but did not make the picture.

SIX STATES YIELD; 11 TOTTER

The summer months in the South stirred with plans for compliance and evasion, as the officials of the various states made response to the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools.

Already six states have initiated plans to divest themselves of Jim Crow educational facilities: Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Oklahoma, and West Virginia. Integration of the District of Columbia school system is being rushed, with the intention of making it a model for others.

In eleven other states, officials are erecting paper-thin barriers against compliance, are threatening to abolish public schools, or are pleading for more time to study the problem.

In their acts of acquiescence or of defiance, officialdom in general has not been especially inspiring. To get a true feeling of the greatness of the change that impends in the region, one has to read between the lines of the "small" items in the news—the brief press accounts which report the actions of private individuals and groups.

ITEM . . . The Rev. Henry A. Buchanan of Shellman, Ga., publicly voiced approval of the court decision. He was dismissed from two of his rural charges, but his main pastorate gave him a vote of confidence. His wife, a teacher in the Shellman schools, was asked to resign. She has refused.

ITEM . . . The National Association for the Advancement and Protection of the Majority of the White People, Inc., has been advertising in several Southern states, peddling $7 memberships. Its secretary-treasurer is R. L. Addleton, of Griffin, Ga., who was once appointed assistant state attorney general by Governor Talmadge. Its aims and methods can be imagined.

ITEM . . . A youth congress of the African Methodist Episcopal Church met in Jackson, Miss., last month. After hearing an address by Governor White,

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MISS. EDITOR FLAYS SEGREGATION

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the group passed a resolution condemning all attempts to circumvent the Supreme Court ruling. The governor spoke on "Where Shall We Spend Eternity?"

ITEM . . . In the July issue of Progressive Farmer, a monthly farm magazine, Editor Clarence Poe suggested separate schools for boys and girls as a means of settling the school segregation problem. Forty-one years ago, this same publication was alarmed at the increase in Negro farm ownership, and urged legislation that would impose segregation on the holding of tillable soil.

ITEM . . . In Kenneth, Mo., 14 children attending Hayti high school for Negroes were given a choice between earning money picking cotton this fall, or attending the erstwhile all-white Kenneth high. Eleven chose to go to Kenneth. The three remaining at Hayti will get a six-weeks vacation at picking time; the others will attend school continuously.

ITEM . . . Twelve eminently qualified Negro teachers were summarily dismissed in Malboro County, S. C. Those fired included: signers of a 1953 petition requesting better schools; teachers refusing to sign a recently distributed petition favoring continuance of school segregation; relatives of NAACP officials.

ITEM . . . Mrs. Jeannette C. Carmichael, editor of the Bay St. Louis, Miss., LIGHT reported in the August 14 issue of that weekly newspaper an account of a discussion she had with Senator Eastland of that state.

"I told him I did not like his speech . . . that I do not believe in segregation in any school or other place supported by common taxes collected by all . . . Under segregation there is no chance of equal opportunities, the segregated person is handicapped primarily by the creation of an inferiority complex . . . Let us hope that he and other misguided Mississippians will take time off from their crowded lives to go to themselves and do a little soul-searching and come up with a deeper love of their fellowmen of all colors, creeds, races and class."

There is no question that the ban on segregation has greatly exercised the chauvanistic element, the lunatic fringe, and the vested interest in the South. But correspondingly, and more importantly, it has fired the courage and the hopes of all Southerners with any serious ethical convictions.

Here are the developments that have taken place in the various states:

LOUISIANA—At its last session in July the Louisiana Legislature approved a constitutional amendment that would place the public schools "under the inherent police power of the state" and thus allow segregation to continue. It will be submitted to the voters for ratification in November.

What this maneuver accomplished is moot. Several attorneys pointed out that the 14th Amendment governs the "police power" of the states, as well as all other functions. Sen. Laurance Eustis of New Orleans, was probably prophetic in his assertion that "the Supreme Court will throw this out in five minutes."

Vigorous Catholic opposition led to exemption of private and parochial schools from the "police power" proviso, and this in turn drew the wrath of Leander Perez, Louisiana's arch-Dixiecrat. "How can the legislature uphold its position . . . and then nullify the whole thing by saying that police power does not include the private schools?" he asked.

While the segregation legislation was under discussion a group of SCEF supporters inserted advertisements in the New Orleans press reminding the public that the Supreme Court decision had the endorsement of the city's Council of Churches, its Rabbinical Council, and the Archdiocesan School Board.

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MISSISSIPPI—Governor Hugh White has called a special session of the Mississippi Legislature for September 7 to consider a constitutional amendment that would abolish the public school system and set up state-financed "private" schools. This is the plan pending in Georgia and South Carolina.

White's decision came after a group of 100 Negro leaders in the state rejected almost unanimously a deal whereby "voluntary" maintenance of segregation would be pledged in exchange for a program of improvements to Negro schools.

White had counted on the support of "a certain element." but in spurning the plan, the Negro leaders declared that "for the sake of our posterity we cannot do otherwise."

Chances of the amendment's passage seem good since a meeting of some 800 white school officials and teachers last month gave it their approval, and the Mississippi Educational Association previously pledged itself "unequivocally to a continuation of public education with separate schools for the white and Negro races as a necessary means of preserving the integrity and purity of both races."

However, at the convention of the state's Municipal Officers Association in Biloxi, Dean Robert J. Farley of the University of Mississippi law school warned that "when it comes to passing laws to outsmart the Supreme Court of the United States, and most of the other states of the Union, then I say Mississippi can't afford it."

He declared: "Mississippi has made more progress during the past 20 years than in any other period in its history. Let's not sacrifice our own children to prevent an occasional Negro from getting into a school."

GEORGIA—Eight men are campaigning for the gubernatorial post soon to be vacated by Herman Talmadge, and all of them, including former governor M. E. Thompson, are pledged to oppose integration in the public schools.

However, the one woman candidate in the race, Mrs. Grace Wilkey Thomas, has adopted as her slogan "The Constitution must be held inviolable." She accused her rivals of using the segregation issue "to inflame hatred and incite strife and rebellion and get everyone so confused that the citizens will forget what the real issues are."

Mrs. Thomas is not conducting a "front-porch" campaign, but is canvassing the state with a platform that includes improved workmen's compensation laws, improved health and educational facilities, and sales tax reform, as well as compliance with the court school decision.

Representatives of the United Church Women of Georgia, the Georgia Association of B'nai B'rith, the Georgia League of Women Voters, and the Congress of Parents and Teachers rather discomfited the educational commission appointed by Governor Talmadge.

The panel convened to fish for schemes to perpetuate Jim Crow. But Mrs. Robert L. MacDougall arose to state: "We were invited here to give suggestions. If you want to ask us how to disobey or circumvent the supreme law of the land, we are not here to advise you on that."

She and other representatives of women's organizations went on to propose that the state attorney general obtain ideas from white and Negro citizens and officials on how to go about carrying out the court decision.

This data, they said, should be presented to the Supreme Court before it

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Churches Begin Belated Drive for Brotherhood

It is virtually a truism that the laws of the state have surpassed the conscience of the church in providing ethical guidance toward human brotherhood. Indeed, the fallacy of racial exclusion has been sharply realized in almost every fileld of social endeavor—except the act of worship.

This loss of leadership was pointed out by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College, at the Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Evanston, Ill., last month. He added: "Even when secular bodies initiate the changes, the churches follow slowly, or not at all."

The inertia of the churches is great, and the pronouncement of high ideals is often muted by sorry practice. But no sect disputes the goal, and when steps have been taken, they have been uniformly toward establishment of a truly religious community that excludes no one on the grounds of race.

Last May the Southern Presbyterian Church met at Montreat, N. C., and approved a resolution ending segregation in its activities. In August, the operators of the church-owned resort at Montreat voted to ignore the recommendation and maintain racial exclusion.

The Mid-South Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. ("Northern") last month called upon all Christians to assist in carrying out "the full implications" of the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation. And a similar stand was adopted by that church's Arkansas Presbytery.

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The Baltimore and Little Rock conferences of the Methodist Church endorsed the court ruling, and the former laid plans to establish an interracial church "as an experiment in the field of race relations, should a favorable opportunity present itself."

College students from 11 Southern states attending a Methodist leadership training conference at Lake Junaluska, N. C., pledged themselves to give individual and church support to the abolition of school segregation. Another lay group, the Methodist Woman's Society of Christian Service, adopted a like resolution.

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In New Orleans, Msgr. Henry C. Bezou, archdiocesan superintendent of Catholic schools, declared that segregation "is not right because it violates the principle of man's natural dignity." He went on to say that integration had been carried out with surprising success in St. Louis and several other cities. However, it was announced later that, in view of various unspecified considerations, the Catholic schools of New Orleans will not be integrated this fall.

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Dr. Lee Robinson, pastor of the Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, was also president of two colleges until last month. Then he resigned his post at Zion College, a Negro institution, and declared that his other bastion, Tennessee Temple College for white ministerial students "does not intend to admit Negro people." His reasoning: "The word of God teaches segregation—not for heaven but here on earth." And probably heaven isn't too chummy.

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In Meridian, Miss., the Rev. Duncan M. Hobart, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church called the Supreme Court decision "an expression of Christian faith in incarnation.

"The incarnation places upon each person a value which the world can never give. All men are men for whom Christ died . . . Society cannot declare any group to be inferior because of race or color."

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Meeting in Louisville, last month, bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church urged Negro leaders not to "enter into any collusion or compromise" in their quest for integrated schools. "By no means should we in any place permit ourselves to become adjusted to voluntary segregation, professing that we think it necessary to keep the peace," their resolution stated.

Arkansas City Integrates Schools

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hands down its final decree.

Seven white ministers, representing six denominations, told the Atlanta Christian Council that the churches should take the lead in the fight against segregation.

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FLORIDA—Florida's Continuing Education Council, a citizen group appointed to make recommendations to the legislature on the school segregation question, is opposed to any attempt to abolish the school system.

Council chairman J. Velma Keen, who represents the Florida Bar Association, declared that the court decision "must be obeyed and segregation must end in Florida."

State Attorney General Richard Ervin is hoping that the court will permit its decree to be enforced "gradually."

Bethune - Cookman College at Daytona Beach had its first white graduate in its 50-year history this summer.

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ARKANSAS—At the suggestion of Governor Blair Cherry (who subsequently lost his runoff race for re-election) the Arkansas Board of Education voted to maintain segregation in the public schools for the coming year.

This action caused the school board of Sheridan to rescind its decision to integrate the city's schools.

Protest against the integration ruling —which would have brought 21 Negroes into school with 600 whites—led to the resignation of the board chairman.

In Fayetteville, however, the city school board has not acknowledged the state's decision, and plans for integration this fall are continuing.

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WEST VIRGINIA — Integration in West Virginia is proceeding on a county-by-county basis. Where Negro schools are being retained for the coming year, it is generally with the understanding that the arrangement is temporary.

The only hitch reported so far in the process occurred at Phillipi last month where protests blocked the transfer of 12 white pupils and a teacher to a school that had previously been all-Negro.

In some counties Negroes have reported for football practice at "white" high schools.

The W. Va. Education Assoc., (white) and the W. Va. Teachers' Assoc. (Negro) have integrated.

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OTHER STATES IN BRIEF — The Alabama State Board of Education voted unanimously to maintain segregation for the coming school year, ignoring the warning of Montgomery minister S. S. Seay, who told them they were "preparing a second day of reckoning" for themselves . . . The Louisville, Ky., board of education passed a similar resolution . . . A proposal to start desegregation in the first grade and let it move gradually through the upper grades will be made to the Supreme Court by Tennessee State officials . . . The faculty of Carver High, the Negro school recently abandoned in Phoenix, Ariz., has been reassigned among the city's other schools . . . Lincoln University, Mo., is opening its doors to white students this fall.